

# **The City of Galena Park**

## **City Commission Meeting**

**Date: April 5, 2016**

A regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Galena Park was held at City Hall in the Council Chambers, Tuesday evening at 6:00 P.M. on April 5, 2016.

**Present were:**

Esmeralda Moya  
Danny Simms  
Cruz R. Hinojosa, Jr.  
Maricela Serna  
Juan Flores  
Mayra Gonzales  
Robert Pruett  
Jim Defoyd

Mayor  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
City Secretary  
City Administrator  
City Attorney

**Item # 1-Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.**

**Item # 2- Gloria Partida led the invocation and pledge.**

**Item # 3-Comments from audience.**

Mr. Willie Cotton, a citizen, stated that a gun, computer, and some change was stolen from his house at 1026 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Cotton asked about the City Ordinance on abandoned vehicles and wanted to know if anyone has talked to Ms. Taggy since the last meeting regarding the block captain. Commissioner Hinojosa replied that he did not have any knowledge of the abandon vehicles. Commissioner Hinojosa stated that there is a process that has to be done, the code enforcer has to go out and inspect the vehicle to see if the license and registration are active. If the license and registration are not active the code enforcer puts a notice on the vehicle giving you a certain amount of days to move it. Mr. Cotton stated that they did that to him in 2013 and when he called to city hall nobody said anything or did anything about it.

Mr. Jack Brown, a citizen, had a concern about the Jacinto City street drainage system on Holland Ave. He stated that coming home, he has seen it happen three times in the last two months were there is a hole 4 1/12" to 6" at the end of the street and a car's wheel drops off into the hole. Mr. Brown stated that it always happens at night by the speed limit sign. Mr. Pruett advised that the city will bring it to the counties attention.

Mr. Jerry Patton, a citizen, had a concern about ratifying the accounts payable and has a concern about spending 28,803.00 to asphalt the police department parking lot. Mr. Patton stated that the citizens of Galena Park deserve better than this, there is traffic going in and out these streets and there is not much traffic going on in the police department. Commissioner Serna advised to Mr. Patton that there is money allocated for each department and each department does their own thing. Commissioner Serna stated that this is not money coming from the streets budget. Mr. Pruett advised that 3 years in a row he denied the Chief of Police to asphalt the parking and this year he was approved.

Mr. Mark Groba, a citizen, mentions that for this year there is not a single minute online. Mayor Moya stated that we will make sure that the minutes are online. Mr. Pruett stated that every single thing that is being said in the meeting is being recorded and under the open records act he can get a copy of the audio, it is not a requirement by law that it has to be online. Mr. Groba said that he asked



under the open records act on March 4 about all the delinquent taxes, he stated that he wants the case numbers and he has not received them yet, he stated that he will be going to State Attorney General's office. Mr. Groba stated that he was told that he needed to go to Mr. Defoyd's office. Mr. Pruett stated that they are in litigation. Mr. Groba stated he put his campaign signs on Industrial Rd by the fire station and the Code Enforcer made him take his down, but there are more signs at the same place. Mr. Pruett stated that there are so many signs that the Code Enforcer can't keep up with all of them.

Leslie Hurst from the Port of Houston Authority stated that they will be changing contractors. If citizens see different trucks it is because they have changed contractors. Ms. Hurst also stated that Zika has been on the news and Zika mosquitos do not breathe in salt water so we should not have an issue. They are trying to do their best to prevent Zika mosquitos from producing. Commissioner Hinojosa asked if he could get a list of what else is being dumped in those sites. Ms. Hurst agreed and stated that everything that is being dumped is safe.

Mr. Robert Clowers, a citizen, asked how the recycling bin was going to work? Mr. Clowers stated that he went Saturday and it was locked. Commissioner Serna stated that it will be open Monday-Friday 8a.m. to 5 p.m. Commissioner Serna stated that Mr. Paredes recommended for the bin to be locked so that kids do not start a fire in the bin. Commissioner Serna stated that if there is a need to open it during the weekend then Ernesto and herself will have to sit and see how they can work that out. Mr. Clowers stated that they had some at the schools, but they have done away with that program. Mr. Paredes stated that the school got rid of the recycling bins because of the fires and vandalism.

Mr. Jack Brown, a citizen, asked where the recycling bin was? Mr. Paredes stated that it is located next to the dog park. Mr. Paredes stated that they had just received it last week and are going to give it a test run. Mr. Brown asked if the recycling bin will also take glass? Commissioner Serna stated yes, if it was in a plastic bag. Mr. Paredes advised that they will make flyers with the rules.

Mr. Jerry Patton, a citizen, stated that the old entrance to the high school has a disabled parking to the right and beside it there is a big hole and someone can step into it and get hurt. Commissioner Simms stated that he would talk to Mr. Randy Taylor; the Ground Maintenance Director for GPISD.

Mr. Willie Cotton, a citizen, stated that he did not get an answer about his concern about the street captain and junk car. Mayor Moya stated that the junk car question will be for Commissioner Hinojosa and street captain will be Ms. Taggy. Mr. Pruett stated that the city has nothing to do with street captain and that Civic Club meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 6 p.m.

Item# 4 Consider approving the minutes of regular meeting on March 15, 2016. Commissioner Flores moved to approve the minutes of regular meeting on March 15, 2016. Commissioner Hinojosa 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion carried.

Item# 5 Consider ratifying accounts payable through April 5, 2016. Commissioner Hinojosa moved to pull the membership from North Channel Area of Commerce for \$725.00. Commissioner Serna 2<sup>nd</sup>. Commissioner Hinojosa stated that he does not see a benefit in belonging to the North Channel Area of Commerce and we have been paying this for years. Commissioner Hinojosa stated that he has never seen the North Channel Area of Commerce come and talk to City Council, the citizens, or any business to try to help with any kind of economic development. Commissioner Flores approved to ratifying accounts payable through April 5, 2016. Commissioner Serna 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion carried.

Item # 6 Consider approving an agreement between the City of Galena Park and Southern Global Safety Services, Inc. for asbestos abatement at 304 Stewart St. (Meter Shop). Commissioner Serna moved to approve the agreement between the City of Galena Park and Southern Global Safety

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**Services, Inc. for asbestos abatement at 304 Stewart St. (Meter Shop) Serna 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 5 Ayes..Motion carried.**

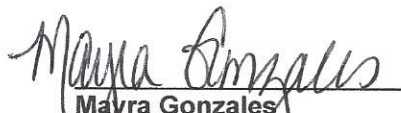
**Item # 7 Consider changing the employment status of Ryan Gonzales from part time to full time- grounds maintenance. Commissioner Flores moved to approve changing the employment status of Ryan Gonzales from part time to full time- grounds maintenance. Commissioner Hinojosa 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion carried**


**Mayor Moya asked for Announcements**

**Commissioner Flores honored the Dairy Queen owner in Galena Park that has been in business for 30 years with a plaque.**

**Commissioner Flores made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Simms 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.**

**Meeting adjourned: 6:40 P.M**

  
Mayra Gonzales

  
APPROVED